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STATE REGULATORS MEET WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ON ACA



WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 17, 2014) — Members of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) met today with President Barack Obama, Vice-President Joe Biden and senior members of the administration to discuss 2015 enrollment issues under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The meeting was called by the White House to focus on the end of open enrollment in 2014 and preparing for the 2015 open enrollment period.

“Today’s meeting was an important opportunity to reiterate that states are best equipped to balance the access, cost, and geographic variables that exist in their distinct markets,” said Adam Hamm, NAIC President and North Dakota Insurance Commissioner.

“The first open enrollment period provided valuable lessons, but more importantly, positions us to better anticipate potential issues, address them efficiently and coordinate oversight in a way that benefits both consumers and carriers,” added Monica J. Lindeen, NAIC President-Elect and Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance.



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The meeting, which took place in the East Room, was an opportunity for regulators to discuss ongoing challenges they see in their markets and coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the administration to find solutions. State regulators expressed concern about the lack of insurance regulatory expertise with HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' departure and recommended that the appointment of a permanent director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) be done quickly, and that the new director should rely on the expertise of state insurance regulators as decisions are made.

NAIC CEO Senator Ben Nelson attended the White House meeting along with 44 chief insurance regulators from across the country. The President, Vice-President, HHS Secretary Sebelius, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, CCIIO Acting Director Mandy Cohen, and other senior administration officials were in attendance.

About the NAIC

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is the U.S. standard-setting and regulatory support organization created and governed by the chief insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. Through the NAIC, state insurance regulators establish standards and best practices, conduct peer review, and coordinate their regulatory oversight. NAIC staff supports these efforts and represents the collective views of state regulators domestically and internationally. NAIC members, together with the central resources of the NAIC, form the national system of state-based insurance regulation in the U.S. For more information, visit www.naic.org.